5. To keep in touch with the progress of expenditure under Depressed Class Amelioration Fund in each District with a view to see that funds are fully and equitably utilised over the whole year.

6. To keep the Commissioner for Depressed Classes fully informed of the progress of work through such returns and reports as may be prescribed by him.

It will be the special duty of the Regional Officers to study Depressed Class problems intensively and to formulate larger schemes of improvement and amelioration.

Silk Industry and safety and security to cocoon rearers.

Q.—250. **Sri D. M. SIDDIAH** (Mysore District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the encouragement given by them for the improvement of silk industry in the State ;

(*b*) how many families in the State are engaged in this industry ;

(*c*) the nature of safety and security that the Government have given to the cocoon rearers in the State ?

A.—**The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA** (Home Minister).—

(*a*) Government have been rendering all possible assistance to the Sericulturists of the State to enable them to harvest successful crops and get increased return for their labour ; mulberry cuttings and seedlings are supplied to Sericulturists free of cost to the extent they can be made available ; their gardens are inspected ; special manure, such as ground-nut cake powder, is stocked in the Silk Farms and supplied to them at cost price ; examined layings are supplied through Government or Aided Grainages ; rearings are inspected and technical guidance given ; improved methods of rearing are demonstrated and steps are being taken to have sufficient rearing appliances. like chandrikes, stocked in some Multipurpose Co-operative Societies for being lent on hire to the rearers who are in need of these appliances. Sericultural Takavi Loans are granted to enable Sericulturists to dig irrigation wells and improve their mulberry gardens. The Aided Graineurs, who are required to work under the control and supervision of the Department, are given bonus for the disease-free layings prepared and distributed by them among the sericulturists.

To improve charka reeling, the Department of Sericulture has been endeavouring to popularise an improved reeling unit known as the "New Cottage Reeling Unit" and demonstrations are being held at important silk reeling centres.

A Japanese Reeling Unit—"The Multi-end Basin"—has been installed by the Central Silk Board at T.-Narsipur Filature and the possibility of improvements in the reeling technique has been demonstrated. Steps are also being taken to adapt our reeling machinery to the Japanese model.

(*b*) Nearly 50,000 families are engaged in silkworm rearing in the State, while about two lakhs of families are directly or indirectly benefited by the industry.

(*c*) Certain measures are being taken for regulating Imports and stabilising prices, which when fully implemented, are calculated to ensure a certain amount of safety and security to Cocoon Rearers.

Planting Casuarina in Bangalore and Kolar Districts.

Q.—297. **Sri B. CHANNABYRE GOWDA** (Bangalore District-General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the year in which the Forest Department commenced planting casuarina plants in Bangalore and Kolar Districts ;

(*b*) the number of trees cut and sold since then and the amount realised therefrom ;

(*c*) the number of trees that are being planted every year and the number of trees that are being sold every year ;

(*d*) the expenditure incurred on planting casuarina trees since the beginning, the gross and the net annual income till now ?